

(Music stops)

FRAULEIN KOST (Cont'd)  
(For FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER's benefit,  
FRAULEIN KOST hugs and kisses the  
SAILOR at great length)  
Goodnight, Karl.

THIRD SAILOR  
(Correcting her)  
Fritz.

FRAULEIN KOST  
Fritz - you must be sure to come back again soon. At  
any time.  
(Taking money from him)  
Bring your friends.

(The SAILOR exits. FRAULEIN KOST  
waltzes up to FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER)

Ah - good evening, Fraulein Schneider. A busy evening,  
no? I see we are - after all - sisters under the skin.

SCHULTZ  
Fraulein Kost!

FRAULEIN KOST  
Yes?

SCHULTZ  
This fine lady is not your sister! She has just honored  
me by consenting to give me her hand in marriage!

FRAULEIN KOST  
(Really amazed)  
Marriage!

SCHULTZ  
We marry in - three weeks.

FRAULEIN KOST  
Three weeks!

SCHULTZ  
So a little respect for the future Frau Schultz - if you  
please!

FRAULEIN KOST  
Ja! Ja! Frau Schultz?  
(FRAULEIN KOST - chastened - exits  
into her room)

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER  
Herr Schultz. You were - supreme.

SCHULTZ

But what else could I do?

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

Such a magnificent lie - to preserve my reputation.

SCHULTZ

But why did I say three weeks? Why not three months? Three years? This way she will find out the truth so quickly. Unless --

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

Unless?

SCHULTZ

Unless what?

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

You said "unless"!

SCHULTZ

But it is foolish! I mean - after all - who would have me? An elderly widower - with gray hair - and heartburn - and a little fruit ...

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

Am I such a bargain then? An unbeautiful spinster with a few rooms to let - poorly furnished.

SCHULTZ

I work fourteen hours a day.

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

I do my own scrubbing.

SCHULTZ

My right leg bothers me.

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

I have such palpitations.

SCHULTZ

I'm not a well man.

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

Am I a well woman?

SCHULTZ

What are we talking about? We're alive! And what good is it - alone? So if you would even consider - marriage ... ?

(There is a long pause)

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

I will consider it.

SCHULTZ

But take your time, by all means. No hurry.

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

Yes. I will consider it.

(They shake hands)

But this much I can tell you already. You have good reason to be very, very optimistic.

(FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER goes to her room.  
HERR SCHULTZ, shaken, sings)

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MARRIED

SCHULTZ

HOW THE WORLD CAN CHANGE,  
IT CAN CHANGE LIKE THAT  
DUE TO ONE LITTLE WORD -  
MARRIED.

SEE A PALACE RISE  
FROM A TWO-ROOM FLAT  
DUE TO ONE LITTLE WORD -  
MARRIED.

AND THE OLD DESPAIR  
THAT WAS OFTEN THERE  
SUDDENLY CEASES TO BE.  
FOR YOU WAKE ONE DAY,  
LOOK AROUND AND SAY,  
SOMEBODY WONDERFUL  
MARRIED ME.

(The lights come up in FRAULEIN  
SCHNEIDER's bedroom. Through the  
wall, we see FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER  
sitting thoughtfully on the edge  
of her bed)

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

(Singing)

HOW THE WORLD CAN CHANGE,  
IT CAN CHANGE LIKE THAT  
DUE TO ONE LITTLE WORD -

SCHULTZ & FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

MARRIED.